has been paying Rs.1 lakh to the victims of terrorist attacks in case of death and Rs.75,000/- in case of permanent incapacitation.

Steps to make mining sector safer

†850. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to make mining sector safer and pollution-free keeping in view the frequent accidents occurring therein;

(b) the number of accidents which occurred in this sector so far in the year 2003 as compared to year 2002 along with the number of persons killed therein;

(c) whether Government propose to put into use the laser developed in order to make the use of explosives more safe while conducting mining work as also to make it pollution free; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) In order to ensure conservation and systematic development of minerals and protection of environment, all lessees of major minerals are required to get the mining plan approved, before actual mining can take place. The mining plan *inter-alia* includes assessment of impact of mining activity on forest, land surface and environment including air and water pollution, details of scheme of restoration of the area by afforestation, land reclamation, use of pollution control devices and such other measures as may be directed by the Central Government or the State Government from time to time.

In addition to above, mining lease holders are required to obtain appropriate clearances from Ministry of Environment and Forests. To ensure safety of mines, the Ministry of Labour administer the Mines Act, 1952. A separate Directorate in the form of Directorate General of Mines Safety has been set up under the Ministry of Labour. The Directorate ensures nationally acceptable and internationally comparable standards of occupational health, safety and welfare for employees in the Indian mines.

(b) As per information received from Ministry of Labour, the details of number of accidents which occurred in the year 2002 and 2003 (upto 31-10-2003) are given below :—

Year	No. of fatal accidents	No. of persons killed	No. of Persons seriously injured in fatal accidents	No. of serious accidents	No. of seriously injured persons
2002	133	161	18	831	853
2003	98	133	14	396	404

(c) and (d) Application of modern technology, including laser technology in use of explosives in mining work is done in the mining industry as per felt needs and commercial viability. As such, there is no such proposal under consideration in the Ministry of Mines.

Minerals in Himachal Pradesh

851. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of different kinds of minerals found in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) whether any plan has been chalked out for commercial exploitations of existing minerals; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) As per information available with Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), a subordinate office under administrative control of the Ministry of Mines, important minerals found in Himachal Pradesh are (i) Barytes (in Sirmur district) (ii) Limestone (in Bilaspur, Shimla, Sirmur, Mandi and Solan districts) and (iii) Rock salt (in Mandi district). As per the National Mineral Inventory, *in situ* reserves/resources of